

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee

Monday Dec 3rd. 2018

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Zilpha Reed, Pat Ryan, Helen Elias, Anthony Godber, Carol Bayliss, Liz Bayton, Debbie Riordan, Tim Brooke, Jane Donovan, (committee members) Trevor Robinson (ranger), Scott Crowther (Albany Bowls)

1. **Apologies:** Karen Berry, Helen Spence, John Plunkett (Albany Bowls) Ken Taylor.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on July 2nd. 2018 adjusted in Flat Green section. The quote was £1500 so our half is £750 not £700. It was also agreed to delete the sentence “If a success is not made next year, the Friends will not fund any more.” as this was not felt to have been agreed at the meeting. The revised minutes were then accepted as a true record. **Matters arising:** Paul has had no response to a letter sent to MIND about using the Flat Green. **Container** Zilpha and Karen have been in it in situ at Lower Ford Street. It is 22 feet long and in good condition. Albany bowls have agreed to repaint it. The compost will need to be cleared from the proposed site in the park and put into brown bins for removal. Otherwise the land is flat, hard and suitable for the installation of the container. The flagstones can be used to raise it above the ground to prevent rust. We are waiting for Tim Fox to organize its transfer to the park. We have to pay for the move. Trevor will look into the costs. Zilpha will approach Michael for a price to clear the area and put the slabs down as he could do the work when installing the bowling green hedge. Zilpha will also contact Tim Fox.
3. **Pavilion:** We are in a standstill position on the future of the pavilion due to the presence of asbestos in the building. We cannot proceed with a building survey while the asbestos is there and until we know the cost involved we cannot take responsibility for the pavilion. Paul will follow up on his letter a week ago to Azim Walimia, the Senior Asset Surveyor. Leanne Jones, of Drama Tots and Will Leigh attended the pavilion sub-committee and were both very enthusiastic about the future of a refurbished pavilion. Leanne is keen to use the pavilion as a base for drama tots and Will gave some helpful advice for the business plan. A pop up café would be feasible in conjunction with increased use of the pavilion. Charges for hiring the pavilion would increase after the refurbishment which would need to include heating.
4. **Santa Event:** A sub-committee met to plan this. Anthony has prepared fliers, posters and timetables to be posted in the park. Helen will bring a gazebo for a buggy park to avoid congestion in the craft room. Entry to this room will be controlled to avoid over-crowding. Helen will organize the Santa hunt and children will be given a sticker on completion. They can see Santa from 3pm in the “grotto” at the back of the pavilion. Carol will control this. Liz and Jane are setting up the grotto on the Friday before. There are at least four stalls who will be bringing their own table. It was agreed that St. Barbara’s Church as a charity would not have to pay for their stall. (Otherwise £10) The tombola will be differentiated between adult and children’s prizes by different colour tickets. There will be mince pies, hot chocolate and soup and the usual cakes and refreshments. Helen will contact Dal to confirm he will still be Santa.
5. **Bowling Greens:** Scott said that the Albany Bowls AGM had taken place since our last meeting and had approved the payment of £750. Friends will transfer the remaining £750 to them. The feeling at the AGM was positive. The flat green would be useful and needs to be kept up to playing standards. Funding is available through national Bowling authorities and particularly due to Coventry being City of Sport next year.
6. **Finances:** Pat presented last quarter’s statement. At the end of October we had £9000 in the bank, mostly committed but there is sufficient for a £1000 building survey. As we can’t apply for funding for the survey till the asbestos issue is resolved, the committee agreed to underwrite the survey costs in the interim. Tim said that there were surveyors willing to undertake pro bono work. Paul to follow up.

7. **David Spencer stone and tree:** Helen explained that the proposal to move the stone and install a big tree between 2 Broadway and the cross park path was made by Tim Weatherall after he spoke to Dave Lewis. This was triggered by Helen having been donated a small oak tree for the park. It had been decided that this small tree should go in the place of the removed lime tree and its dead replacement on the Broadway side of the small Spencer Park opposite Belvedere. Trevor will arrange to clear the site and collect this tree from Helen's allotment. Concerning the David Spencer Memorial, Tim Wetherall felt that it should have a major event to celebrate it. The committee approved this in principle but questioned where the funding would come from. A WREN application has been suggested but this would require matched funding from the Council if we are to submit the bid. Zilpha will discuss the issues with Tim.
8. **Tennis:** No discussion took place as Karen was not present.
9. **Gardening:** Next session Saturday Jan. 5th.
10. **A.O.B.** Scott reported that applications for Earlsdon Festival stands can be submitted in mid December. He will put in a joint application for Albany Bowls and Friends. We usually split the cost. Anthony will update the Park noticeboard.
11. **Next meetings:** Monday January 7th.

4.12.18